



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Meeting Minutes
12 March 2026

Open:

President Denis Hyland opened the meeting at 2pm. He noted the sad passing of our ex-RAAF member Joe Gati last week. Then all present recited the Ode.

Attendance:

Mick Arnott, Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, Roger Atkinson, Allan Bliss, John Brown, Ross Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Margaret Everett, Gary Holt, Di and John Hopwood, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Ross McRae, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Neil Remeus, Bruce Richards, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Janis and Paul Taylor, Maria and Tony Tol, KayeWard, Peter Wood.

Apologies:

Des Connor, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Glen Ferguson-Thomas, Geoff Fifer, Bernice Goodwin, Tony Holton, Shane Hurley, Ronald Kingsbury, Mike Pitcher, Laurie Ward, Geoff Zanker.

Denis started with his apology that discussion during the February monthly meeting became heated and he had lost control of the meeting. He has now purchased a wooden gavel with which he will control future meetings, and gave a demonstration its prowess. He added that following the meeting, the newly-elected Vice President Derek Haayema resigned his position as Vice President, and has probably also resigned from the club but that has yet to be clear. At a committee meeting yesterday 11 March, the committee accepted his resignation. Derek has severed all connection with the club and asked not be contacted.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The February minutes had been circulated on-line to members or posted out.
Moved Harry Paterson, seconded David Clark that the minutes be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes:

Gas meter will be abolished by the supplier AusNet for around \$250.

Correspondence:

Copies of relevant correspondence received since the last meeting were tabled. It is at Annex A to these minutes. Items of interest:

Item 18 - Senator Henderson has started a petition to "Save the Fort" (Queenscliff). Denis and Fran attended a protest at the fort on Sunday, and Fran featured in the Channel 9 coverage of the event.
Item 24 - Bellarine police newsletter carried an article on e-scooters. Speeds must be below 20kph, users must wear a helmet and ride on the road not the footpath. The scooters are "valuable and attractive items" and are easily stolen. Denis added that the Bellarine police have invited everyone to a "Coffee with a Cop" event at Shugar Beach cafe in St Leonards 16 March 10-11:30am. Also, a new Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine scheme has started up recently.

Item 25 - Dept of Vet Affairs note the 110th anniversary of Australian troops arriving on the Western Front after evacuating Gallipoli, and the 26th anniversary of Australian defence personnel involvement in the Iraq theatre as part of Operation Desert Storm.

Item 26 - proposal by Bellarine Secondary student and Cadet Sgt Taylan Black (who was our guest speaker at the last Remembrance Day service). Harry circulated a photo of Colac's cemetery showing Australian flags over graves of veterans. He said it would be difficult to find which of the thousands of graves in our cemetery were veterans. Neil Remeus suggested taking a picture of our Roll of Honour Board and check against the findagrave.com website. David Clark suggested Taylan and his cadets could do this search. Denis suggested if we can't identify veterans' graves, we could put two flags at the entrance to the cemetery around Anzac Day. The committee will consider the issue further.

Moved Harry Paterson, seconded Bob Atkinson that the correspondence be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Denis introduced John Brown as our new Treasurer, who received a round of applause. John explained he is using a new accounting application so the appearance would be different. He outlined the financial position. Term Deposit has just matured, and was rolled over at 3.8% for 12 months.

Moved John Brown, seconded George Browney that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Wellbeing Report

Fran Rowell reported a busy month of visits to Regis Drysdale (previously Drysdale Grove) including Edna Casey a spritely 98-year old resident whose husband was in Japan with the Army after WWII. She reported that Ron Kingsbury is also in care at Regis.

Fran, Denis, Pam and Kev Davis attended the funeral of our member Joe Gati on 10 March.

Fran visited our 97-year old member Ron Green at Crimea House, and has also visited Neil Shaw and Noel Kerlin.

Moved Fran Rowell, seconded Pam Davis that the Wellbeing report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

General Business

Anzac Day planning: Bob Atkinson has agreed to be MC for the event at the cenotaph. Travis Gullidge is not likely to be available for the marshal of the March Past down Princess St, so we need a volunteer for that role. Traffic management on High St has been requested but unlikely. However, we might get traffic marshals to guide pedestrians off High St.

Changes to DVA compensation: Harry tabled a sheet of changes to the veterans' entitlement acts (Annex C). Members currently in receipt of service-related pensions or compensation will continue to receive those benefits, but from 1 July 2026 a single act will cover both compensation and rehabilitation.

Sub Branch Connect training: RSL Victoria is implementing a new communications application to improve communication with sub branches. A 90-minute introductory on-line training session has

been given this week to presidents and secretaries. Denis and Harry and more than 100 other sub-branch officers attended on Tuesday. Similar sessions will be available at the end of March for treasurers and appeals officers and in mid-April to membership and wellbeing officers. Harry explained some of the features of the new system, which will go live next week.

Name Badges: Noting that eight of the members present were not wearing name badges, Fran moved that a new system of \$2 fines be instituted at future meetings for members not wearing their badges, with the proceeds at the end of the year going to a local charity. After David Clark suggested Fran be the Collector of Fines, Maurie Dean seconded Fran's motion, which was **carried by a show of hands**.

Anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary: Pam Davis noted that our Women's Auxiliary is about to celebrate its 74th anniversary, having been created in March 1952. There will be a small celebratory lunch for about 30 people cost about \$16 each. She moved that the Women's Auxiliary be allowed to spend their own funds on this event (there is a requirement that expenditure of WA funds be approved by the sub-branch). Seconded by Colleen Lincoln. **Carried by a show of hands**.

Building Sub-Committee: David Clark said the committee will form a Building sub-committee, to ensure the structure of the building is properly managed, and that future changes/renovations are well planned. He asked for expressions of interest from members with expertise, qualifications or interest in joining the sub-committee. He hoped for a wide range of input, including from the Women's Auxiliary.

Raffle: A raffle conducted by Kev Davis was won by Colleen Lincoln and Ross Brown.

Close: The President closed the meeting at 2:45pm and the Women's Auxiliary served an excellent afternoon tea. Next meeting: 9 April 2026

Incoming Correspondence 2026

14	Email	4/2	Dept of Vet Affairs	Anzac Portal	
15	Post	17/2	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer
16	Email	18/2	Christian College Geelong	Junior Choir Anzac Day	
17	Email	19/2	Libby Coker	Grant opportunities	
18	Email	20/2	Senator Henderson	Protest Fort Queenscliff	
19	Email	22/2	Clifton Springs Primary	Anzac Day participation	
20	Email	23/2	Bellarine Nth Rotary	Anzac Day catering	
21	Email	24/2	Liquor Control Victoria	Licencing newsletter	
22	Email	26/2	Dept of Vet Affairs	Heart Health program	
23	Post	27/2	Australia Post	Annual PO box rental	Treasurer
24	Email	2/3	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	
25	Email	4/3	Dept of Vet Affairs	Anzac Portal	
26	Email	6/3	Taylan Black	Cemetery flags for Anzac Day	Committee
27	Email	10/3	Derek Haayema	Letter of resignation	Committee
28	Email	10/3	Travis Gullidge	Official complaint	Committee

Treasurer's Report March 2026

Finance not available for public consumption

Changes to Veterans' Entitlement Acts

CURRENT SYSTEM

**Veterans' Entitlements
Act 1986 (VEA)**

Pension based scheme

Conditions from operational, peacekeeping and hazardous service before 2004. Covers some other defence service mostly between 1972 and 1994

**Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation
(Defence-related Claims)
Act 1988 (DRCA)**

Workers' compensation model

Conditions from non-operational service before 2004. Also covers operational service between 1994 and 2004

**Military
Rehabilitation
and Compensation
Act 2004
(MRCA)**

Conditions from service on or after 1 July 2004

NEW SYSTEM

Legacy VEA and DRCA

Compensation payments determined before **1 July 2026** will be protected by grandparenting and will continue to be paid and indexed as normal

**Improved MRCA
(the Single Ongoing Act)**

The VETS Act closes the VEA & DRCA to new compensation claims from **1 July 2026** and implements a single Act system covering veterans' compensation and rehabilitation.